

EXCEL'SAGA

24



story and art by RIKDO KOSHI

EXCEL SAGA 24

STORY AND ART BY
RIKDO KOSHI

*People
in
their
happiest
moment.*





EXCEL SAGA

24

5. MISSION 1
LOOSE AND HAPPY
29. MISSION 2
THE NORTH WIND AND THE HEAVY RAIN
61. MISSION 3
ADVENT OF THE BLUE
93. MISSION 4
A WRINKLED ANGEL
125. MISSION 5
THE SNEERING DOCTOR
157. MISSION 6
SHADOWS OF BLUE AND SCARLET
192. OUBLIETTE
(EXCEL SAGA BONUS SECTION)

STORY AND ART BY
RIKDO KOSHI

ENGLISH ADAPTATION BY
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TRANSLATION
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LETTERING & TOUCH-UP
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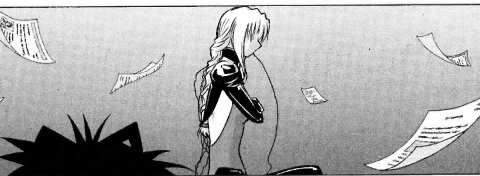
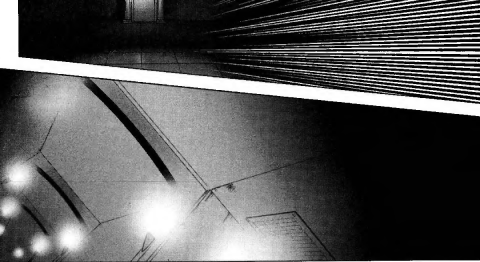


MISSION 1

LOOSE AND HAPPY







...IT'S
JUST
NOT
POSSIBLE!!

A
30
HOUR
WORK-
DAY...





IS IT
JUST ME, OR
DOES
NOBODY
APPRECIATE
THE
PERSONAL
SACRIFICES
I MAKE..?

THAT IS,
BEFORE
YOU
WERE
PLACED
ON THE
MOST
WANTED
LIST.

I
DEVELOPED
BUSINESS
SKILLS.
I HEARD YOU
KEPT BUSY
SHARPENING
PENCILS.



CAUGHT
UP?
YOU
MEAN,
FROM
ALL THAT
TIME SHE
WAS YOUR
SERVANT..?

I'M
ALMOST
CAUGHT UP
WITH THE
PRESIDENT'S
BACKLOG
OF WORK
AT ILL..



THIS
WILL
DO..



She
looks
grogginess..

..BUT
I'M
GOING
TO MAKE
IT EVEN
BIGGER

JUDGING FROM
ALL THE ILL
BOXES WE
USED TO
REINFORCE
OUR SHELTER,
I KNEW
THE FIRM
WAS BIG..

Y-YOU
KNOW,
SENIOR,
YOU'VE SURE
GOTTEN USED
TO THAT
BODY QUICK..



LET
ME
BREAK
IT DOWN
FOR YOU,
ELGALA.

lol
whut
?

YOU'RE
SUPPOSED
TO SHIFT
THE
PARADIGM
FROM
CAPITALIST
PATRIARCHY
TO THE
INFORMATICS
OF
DOMINATION!

SENIOR!
DON'T YOU
UNDERSTAND
THAT
YOU'RE A
CYBORG NOW?
THE RADICAL
IMPLICATIONS
OF YOUR
UNSTABLE,
NON-
ESSENTIALIZED
IDENTITY?!



'REAL
CONVENIENT'

YEAH
IT'S
REAL
CONVENIENT

I CAN QUICKLY REMEMBER KANJI I FORGOT, AND I HAVE ONE MILLION HORSE-POWER!

NO MORE NEED TO SLEEP... TO BATHE... TO POOP, AND THE EMBARRASSMENT THAT CAME WITH THE FELLET-LIKE WASTE OF HABITUAL MALNUTRITION!

ムシ!

...BUT YOU HAVE BEEN WORKING WITHOUT A BREAK HAVEN'T YOU..?

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2255
225



DID
YOU
GET
RE-
CHARGED?

HEY!



THE ONLY
FRUSTRATING
PART IS,
THERE'S
A LOT OF
ROOMS
I CAN'T
ACCESS.

AH.

LIKE
I SAID,
I DON'T
GET TIRED
ANYMORE.
I WAS ACTIVE
ALL DAY
CLEANING
THE BASE AND
ORGANIZING
THINGS..



IN THIS
DAY AND
AGE, I'M
PRETTY
SURE IT
ISN'T,
SENIOR.

IN THIS
DAY AND
AGE, ISN'T
THIS BODY
NUCLEAR-
POWERED?

You gotta
plug it in,
Senior.
Like a
smart
car.



YEAH!
YOU'VE
GOTTA
RECHARGE
YOUR
BODY!

RE-
CHARGED?

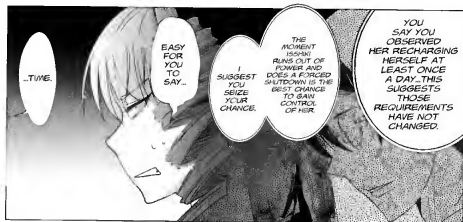


ISSHIKI'S
POWER
LASTS
FOR A
MAXIMUM
OF ABOUT
30 HOURS
UNDER
NORMAL
OPERATION.

THAT'S
NOT
WHAT I
HEARD..

WELL,
IT
STILL
FEELS
FINE,
SO I
GUESS
IT'S OKAY
AS IS.

HM.



...TIME.

EASY
FOR
YOU
TO
SAY...

I
SUGGEST
YOU
SEIZE
YOUR
CHANCE.

THE
MOMENT
ISSHAKI
RUNS OUT OF
POWER AND
DOES A FORCED
SHUTDOWN IS THE
BEST CHANCE
TO GAIN
CONTROL
OF HER.

YOU
SAY YOU
OBSERVED
HER RECHARGING
HERSELF AT
LEAST ONCE
A DAY...THIS
SUGGESTS
THOSE
REQUIREMENTS
HAVE NOT
CHANGED.



...OR
SOME-
THING
!

I'M
THINKING
ABOUT A
STRATEGY
THAT WILL
DEFEAT
ALL THOSE
JERKS AT
ONCE...

NO
MORE
HAVING
LUNCH
AND BRUNCH
WITH THE
GODDAMNED
ENEMY.

WHAT
ARE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?



I
SAID,
IT'S
ABOUT
TIME.

EXCUSE
ME?



WHO
ARE
"THOSE
JERKS"...?

...OH.

NOW
THAT
I HAVE
THIS
CONVENIENT
BODY...



STRATEGY!
I'M
TALKING
ABOUT
OUR
STRATEGY!

EH
?







I
THOUGHT
YOU
WERE
LIVING
AT
SHIOUJI'S
HOUSE...

"Apartment" ...?

WHEN
I
RETURNED
TO OUR
APART-
MENT,
I FOUND
IT
GONE!



THE
WORLD
IS
TRYING TO
DECEIVE
US. IT'S
LIKE THE
TRUMAN
SHOW!

...PEOPLE
SAID THE
BUILDING
BURNED DOWN
IN A FIRE A LONG
TIME AGO! A NEW
CONDOMINIUM HAS
BEEN BUILT AND
STRANGERS HAVE
INVADED OUR
CASTLE!



Iwato's
wadkin'
round loose.
Are ye
sure it's
aal reer?

How
Shiouji.

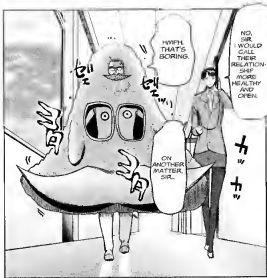
UUM...



'Eez
calenda
prun-gram
could dee
w' a linn
urpdatin'-ah
reckon.

OH,
YOU
BOUGHT
ROMANCE
☆
WILD
SLAVE,
HUN?







UML
ER.
NO.

SHE DOESN'T RECHARGE...?
WELL, DOES YOUR
BASE HAVE ANY
STATIONS FOR
CONTACTLESS
RESONANT
CHARGE...?

W
H
A
T
?



SO MUCH
FOR THE
EXHAUSTION
STRATEGY

...HMM



OFF
DOING
ODD
JOBS...

SHE'S
NOT
EVEN HERE
MOST OF
THE DAY
NOW.



IS
THE
ONE AT
YOUR
PLACE
OKAY?

YOU SEEM
TO BE BAD AT
HIDING THINGS.
SO CAN YOU
FOLLOW MY
DIRECTIONS
THROUGH THE
RECORDER I
PROVIDED ?

YEAH,
SOOO...
WHAT
NEXT ?

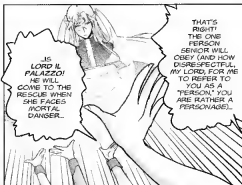


BUT
WE'RE
NOT SURE
HOW LONG
SHE WILL
REMAIN
IN THIS
CONDITION,
EITHER.

WE
HAVEN'T
FOUND ANY
PROBLEM
WITH EXCEL'S
MAIN BODY
SO FAR.









...YOUR
PROBLEM
NO. 2
IS
IN
TROUBLE
!!!



...THOUGH
IT IS
PRESUMPTUOUS
OF ME TO SAY
THIS, I, ELGALA,
WHO CARES
ABOUT MY
SENIOR,
WOULD
LIKE TO
REPORT
THAT...



LORD
IL
PALAZZO!



HERE
COMES
A
WOLF!

A
WOLF!
A
WOLF!
A
WOLF!

MY
SENIOR
IS
IN
DANGER
!

LORD
IL PALANNO!

WHO
IS
IN
DANGER?

...S-
SENIOR
HYATT
!!

SHE
BROKE
COMPANY
SQUAD-
MENT!

SHE
WAS
CRITICAL
OF THE
REGIME!

MY
SENIOR
WAS
SPEAKING
ILL OF
YOU!

SHRIEK!

MRS.
BLAVILA





I
REALLY
SHOULD
HAVE
GOTTEN
USED TO
THIS BY
NOW...

EXCEL'SAGA



...SO THAT'S
HOW
IT WAS.

OH.



DON'T
BLAME
YOU
FOR
BEING
SURPRISED.

...SENIOR
EXCEL
IS IN
TROUBLE

SO
NOW
DO YOU
GET IT?
THAT'S
WHY...



UM..
I THOUGHT
SHE HAD
BEEN ACTING
STRANGE,
SO I'M
NOT
REALLY
THAT
SURPRISED.

...WELL,
IT
MAKES
SENSE
TO ME.

MISSION 2

THE NORTH WIND

AND THE HEAVY RAIN

SO...
koff
WHAT IS
SENIOR
EXCEL
DOING
NOW?

STAYING
CALM
IS
IMPOR-
TANT...

YOU
KNOW,
I'M GLAD
YOU'RE
NOT
SURPRISED...

BECAUSE
I'M
COMPLETELY
OUT OF POTS

ト
ン
ッ





SO, MS. ELGALA... I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE...

COOPERATING WITH OUR ENEMIES?



OH...

AND ANYWAY, NOW SHE'S RUNNING AROUND ALL OVER THE PLACE.

EVEN IN THE OFFICE, I, ELGALA, COULDN'T BEGIN TO KEEP UP WITH HER, SO I LEFT HER TO IT...

SHE'S WORKING LIKE CRAZY ON ALL'S BUSINESS OPERATIONS.



WAS I NOT SUPPOSED TO HEAR THAT...?

YES, YOU SPOKE ABOUT IT IN DETAIL...

DID I TALK ABOUT IT?







...OH,
COME
ON.

I TOLD
YOU
THAT
I WOULD
ONLY
HELP
YOU
ONE
TIME.

MIWA...
DON'T
SAY
THAT.



BUT I
JUST
DON'T
HAVE
THAT
MUCH
FREE
TIME,
YOU
KNOW?

I
HELPED
YOU
BECAUSE
THAT
PROJECT
SOUNDED
INTER-
ESTING.

NO.



...BUT
HOW
CAN
YOU
CATCH
HER IF
SHE'S
MISSING?



IF
YOU
WANT
THAT
PIECE
OF JUNK,
I'LL
CONSIDER
IT...

WELL,
CAN
YOU AT
LEAST
LEND US
THE
DEVICE
TO
STOP
ISSHIKI...?



I'M
REALLY
IMPRESSED
BY HER
GUTS IN
MAINTAINING
HER
CURRENT
CONDITION.

..THOSE
KIDS
TOOK
ACTION
THEMSELVES,
SO MY
PLAN IS
AHEAD
OF
SCHEDULE.

..HE
FLEW
OFF AS
SOON
AS HE
FOUND
HER.

..THAT MUST
HAVE BEEN
QUITE A
SHOCK,
AND HE
PROBABLY
WON'T LET
HER GO.
WHAT A
DRAG..

I
GUESS
THE
PROBLEM
IS
THIS
GUY..



TO MAKE UP FOR IT, I, EXCEL, REDOUBLE MY DETERMINATION (AND THUS IT NOW STANDS AT 2*16 MY ORIGINAL DETERMINATION) TO SERVE YOU WITH ALL MY STRENGTH!

I DEEPLY APOLOGIZE FOR NOT CONTACTING YOU FOR SUCH A LONG TIME, LORD IL PALAZZO!

THIS CONCLUDES MY REPORT!

HM, THANK YOU.



MS. EXCEL.

YOU LOOK SO GOOD IN A SUIT THAT THE FIXELS CANNOT KEEP UP WITH YOUR IMAGE AND I'M JUST ABOUT READY TO PASS OUT...

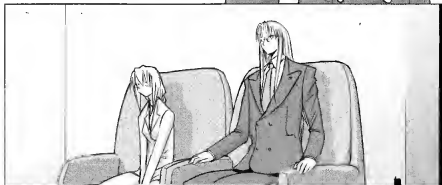


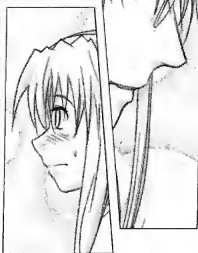
MS. EXCEL.

THE ADROIT EXTENSION OF YOUR IDEOLOGY INTO THE BUSINESS WORLD IS A MASTERPIECE OF SUBVERSION!



DID I MENTION HOW MUCH I ADMIRER THE WHOLE CORPORATE STRATEGY, SIR?!









SHE'LL
RECOVER
SOON.



SHE'LL
BE FINE.
I KNOW
IT SEEMS
STRANGE,
BUT
THERE'S
NOTHING
WRONG
WITH HER
BODY.



PRO-
FESSOR
IS SHE.

WE'RE
MONITORING
HER VITAL
SIGNS
AFTER
ALL
THERE'S
NO NEED
TO KEEP
CONSTANT
WATCH.



IT'S
REALLY
STRANGE
THAT
THERE
IS NO
PROBLEM.

YES,
SIR...



DO
YOU
GET
IT?

SO...



YES...



IT'S JUST
--YOU KNOW--
LITTLE BY
LITTLE
--THINGS
WERE--
AND STUFF
LIKE
THAT! RIGHT?

I'M
NOT
REALLY
BETRAYING
THE
CAUSE...



OUR SENIOR
IS
FACING
MORTAL
DANGER,
RIGHT?

WELL,
THAT'S A
RELIEF.
I WASN'T
SURE
IF I HAD
UNDER-
OR
OVER-
EXPLAINED
THE
SITUATION.
v v



HUH?

I
WILL
COOP-
ERATE
WITH
YOU.



I ALSO
ALMOST
FORGOT
THAT SHE
CAN BE
PRETTY
DEVIOUS
WHEN SHE
WANTS
TO BE.

AH!

HOW
ABOUT
THIS?
WE WILL
USE THE
ENEMY
TO OUR
ADVANTAGE.



...JUST
LISTEN
TO THIS...

4



WELL...

SO...
WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?

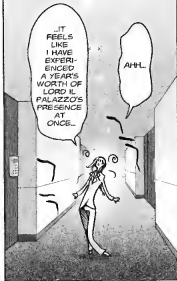


sigh



...WERE I TO BOTTLE IT AND PLACE BUT A DROP UPON MY SKIN, I WOULD PERISH WITH JOY.

A HEADY, SENSUOUS BLEND OF MASCULINITY, ELEGANCE, AND POWER...



...IT FEELS LIKE I HAVE EXPERIENCED A YEAR'S WORTH OF LORD IL PALAZZO'S PRESENCE AT ONCE...

AHH...

WHERE ARE YOU?"
THE
EXECUTIVE
LOUNGE?"
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING..."
HMP

E
L
G
A
L
A
?

EXECUTIVE LOUNGE



...



YOU
CALLED
ME!
WHAT
DO
YOU
WANT--

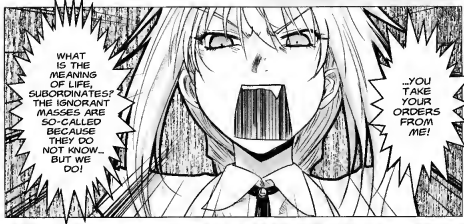














REGARDLESS
OF THE
PROCESS,
HOWEVER, IT IS
PROBABLE
THAT HER
REMARKABLE
WILLPOWER
ENCOURAGES
HER TO
ACCEPT
IT.

I FREELY
ADMIT TO
BEING
UNCERTAIN
AS TO HOW
AND WHY,
EXACTLY,
YOUR SENIOR
IS IN HER
PRESENT
DILEMMA.



LET'S
BEGIN
WITH THE
BASIC
"SHAKE"
STRATEGY.



GIVE
HER A
REASON
TO RETURN
WORTHY
OF HER
STRENGTH.

YOU
MUST
THEREFORE
ATTEMPT TO
USE HER VERY
WILL AS
LEVERAGE
TO SHAKE
HER
ASSUMPTIONS.



ARE
YOU
WITH
ME?!

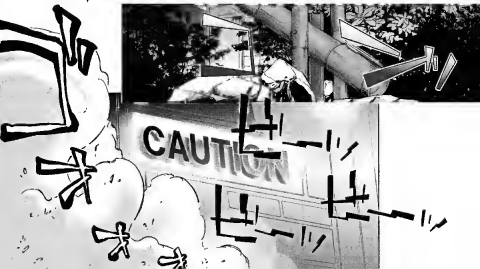
...THERE'S
NOTHING
THAT
WILL
SHAKE
HER.

IT'S
NO
USE...

LET'S
BEGIN
WITH THE
FIRST AND
MOST
BASIC STEP.
STOP THE
RECORDER.

YOU
KNOW
HER
BEST--
I LEAVE
THE
SPECIFICS
TO YOU.







...THAT'S THE MOST HARDENED POINT OUR...

THEY BROKE IN THROUGH THE FRONT GATE?

SIR!
IT'S ISSHIKI!



YES, SIR!
THE NETWORK IS UNDER SIMULTANEOUS ASSAULT AS WELL!

THE DETAILS OF THE SITUATION ARE UNCERTAIN...

DOCTOR!
WE HAVE A BREAK-IN TO OUR BASE IN PROGRESS!



DO THEY KNOW HOW MANY CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS THAT COST ME?!

THEY, ER, SAID THEY WANTED TO USE THE FLOOR DISPLAY TO PLAY VIDEO GAMES, SIR.

EH? THEM? WHY ARE THEY THERE THIS LATE?!

WATANABE AND SUMIYOSHI, SIR...

WHO'S ON BASE?



WHA...

WHAT A WHITE DEVIL.

Did ye feel a tremor?

Yeah, lost control of walky for a second there.





YOU
GUYS
ARE
ANNOYING,
SO I'VE
COME TO
DESTROY
YOUR
PLACE!

HAIL,
IL D'ANNUNO!



TH-THIS
ISN'T
BUSYWORK!
DIDN'T YOU
HEAR ME?!
I'M GONNA
DESTROY
YOUR
PLACE...

Th' way
ah look
at it, as
taxpayaz,
wu hev a certain
reet t' use
it on a
pro rata
basis, but.

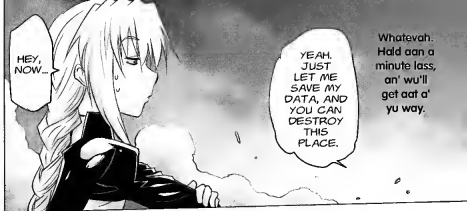
THIS
ISNT
OUR
PLACE.



EH
?

KEEPING
YOU
BUSY,
ARE
THEY?

Whye
aye
lass.





PURSUE
HER!
EH...
I GUESS
THERE'S
NO
TIME
FOR
THAT.

EVERYTHING
FROM THE
FRONT
GATE TO
THE FLOOR
DISPLAY
RECIPE
DESTROYED
IN A
STRAIGHT
LINE



I
SEE...



SHE'S
GONE...?
DAMAGE
REPORT
!!



WHAT
DOES
SHE
WANT?

WHY
DIDN'T
SHE
DESTROY
MORE?
WHY'D
SHE
LEAVE?



ARE
YOU
ALL
RIGHT?

DON'T
YOU
UNDER-
STAND?

EVERYONE
TALKS
NONSENSE
TO
ME...



SR,
I
DAMAGED
THE
ENEMY'S
BUILDING!

YES,
GOOD
JOB.

GO
HOME
AND
RELAX.



IF I
LOSE
THIS
BODY...

LORD
IL
PALAZZO
IS...



THIS
IS LIKE
THE TALE
OF THE
NORTH WIND
AND THE SUN
THEY'RE SO
USELESS

OH-OH
WHAT'S
THE
POINT OF
MAKING
HER SO
STUBBORN?

SOME
FOOL IS
CAUGHT
IN THE
LABORATORY'S
SECURITY
SYSTEM.

...HM
?







END MISSION 2



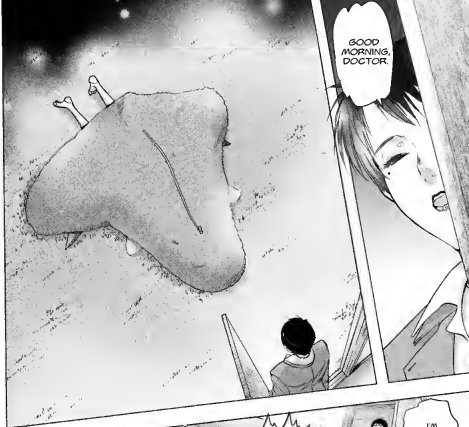
EXCEL'S AG

MISSION 3
ADVENT OF THE BLUE









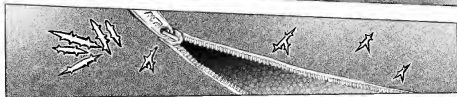
GOOD
MORNING,
DOCTOR.

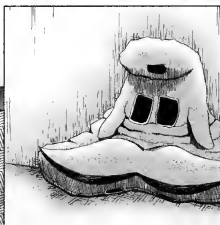
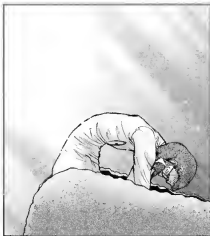


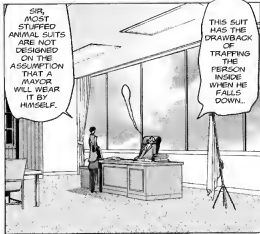
UNFIP
ZUH
SOOD!

MIFF
MOMOFFI,
UNFIP
ZUH
SOOD!

I'M
SORRY,
SIR,
SHOULD
I HAVE
SCREAMED?









...BEFORE
WE USED
THE BASE
AS A HUB,
THEY'D
ALREADY
FOUND IT.



SINCE
THE FIRST
TIME SHE
BROKE INTO
THE BASE,
I'VE NEVER
UNDERSTOOD...



...50% IS
COMPLAINING
ABOUT WORK,
30% CONCERNS
THEIR HOBBIES,
40% ABOUT THE
VICISSITUDES
OF LIFE,
AND THE
REST IS
GENERALLY
ROMANCE...

I HAVE,
OF
COURSE,
WIRETAPPED
THEIR
CONVER-
SATIONS...



WOW!
NOT
CONSCIOUSLY,
PERHAPS,
BUT
LOOSE
LIPS...

I DOUBT
THEY
WOULD
LEAK OUR
COMPROMISED
STATUS, SIR.

WHAT
ABOUT
OUR
STAFF?



ALL
RIGHT.
ALL RIGHT.
LET'S GO
BACK
TO THE
PREVIOUS
MODE OF
MONITORING
THEM

IT'S
RARE
TO SEE
YOU
LOOK
SO
ANNOYED.

...IT WAS
INTERESTING
TO KNOW THAT
MS. MATSUYA IS
ACTUALLY QUITE
A COWARD...BUT
HONESTLY, I'M
RELUCTANT
TO INVAD
THEIR PRIVATE
LIVES ANY
FURTHER.

BUT...



EVEN
POSITIVE
CHARACTER-
ISTICS
AT HIS
LEVEL ARE
UNSTABLE,
SHY?

BAD...
SEE.



HERE'S
WHAT
THE
PRO-
FESSOR
SAYS...

BY
THE
WAY,
WHAT
IS IWATA'S
CONDITION...?



...WE
CAN'T
DO
ANYTHING
ABOUT
ISSHIKI
RIGHT
NOW.



SPARE
MA-
CHINE...

I GUESS
THAT WAS
TOO MUCH
WORK FOR
A SPARE
MACHINE



...WELL,
IT'S NO
USE
SAYING
THINGS
LIKE THIS
NOW.

HMM...
IN AN
EMERGENCY,
HE WOULD
REPLACE
ROFFON-
MATSU?



WHAT
INSTRUCTION
DID
YOU GIVE
TO MS.
ELGALA..?

7A
7A





SENIOR!

SENIOR!



BUT
YOU
CAN'T
SLEEP,
RIGHT?

SO
LET
ME
SLEEP
A
LITTLE!

LOOK!
OUR
STOCK
PRICE,
RISING!
OUR
YEAR-ON-
YEAR
EARNINGS,
SKYROCKET-
ING!



WILL
YOU
SHUT
UP
?!

I
FINISHED
THE
JOB
YOU
TOLD
ME
TO...

HEY!
SENIOR
EXCEL!
I
FINISHED...











...THE
CELL
PHONE
YOU
HAVE
REACHED
IS EITHER
TURNED
OFF OR
IN AN
AREA OUT
OF OUR
SERVICE...

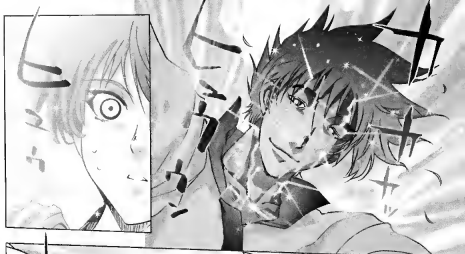
THERE'S
NOTHING
WRONG
WITH
OUR
SYSTEM...

...THE
CUTOFF
DOESN'T
SEEM
TO BE
DUE TO
DAMAGE...

WE'VE
LOST
ALL
SIGNALS
FROM
IWATA...

I
DON'T
THINK MY
MOTHER
DID
ANYTHING
TO
IWATA...









WHAT
DO
YOU
WANT?

...WHO
ARE
YOU?



YOU...



...BUT HE
IS NO
STRANGER
TO ME, SO
I COULD
APPEAR...

NO...

YOU'RE
NOT
IWATA...
ARE
YOU...?



...BUT AN
ENERGETIC
PERSON
CUT THE
CONNECTION.

WELL,
I WAS
MEANING
TO
FOLLOW
THEM
THIS
TIME...

LISTEN,
I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT,
BUT
ARE
YOU...

...THIS
IS THE
ONLY
KIND
OF
BOND
WE
HAVE.

WHAT
DOES...



WE
JUST
WANT
TO
HAVE
FUN,
YOU
KNOW...



CHECK
TO
SEE
AS TO
WHETHER
OR NOT
YOU CAN
OPERATE
IT.

YOU
HAVE
REPORTED
THAT THERE
IS A
MAINTENANCE
FACILITY
IN YOUR
BASE.

HERE
IS
YOUR
NEXT
INSTRUC-
TION.



...WE'RE
NOT
ALLOWED
TO
ENTER
MOST
OF THE
ROOMS...

...HE TOLD ME
TO CHECK THE
FACILITY, BUT
LORD IL
PALAZZO
ONLY TOOK
ME THERE
WHEN SENIOR
HYATT
GOT ALL...



MAINTENANCE
FACILITY...

STOP
THE
RE-
CORDER
NOW--

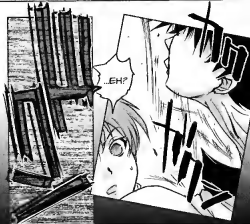


HOW
CAN
I
HELP
YOU?

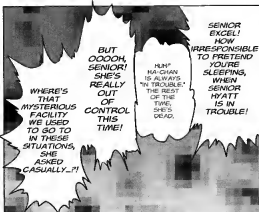


...











MISA...



HEY!
WHAT
HAPPEN-
ED?

DONT
FREEZE
UP IN A
PLACE
LIKE
THIS!



AM
I IN A
POSITION
WHERE
I CAN DO
SOMETHING
TO YOU?

IWATA-
KUN!



AREN'T
WE
NEAR
OUR OLD
APARTMENT...?

...WHY AM
I HOLDING
MISA LIKE A
SUPERHERO
IN A PLACE
LIKE THIS?!"



OH?

WHOA!
WHAT'S
THIS?
WHY AM
I ON TOP
OF A TALL
BUILDING
LIKE SOME
SUPERHERO?!"



ABOUT
THE
THINGS
YOU'VE
DONE
RECENTLY!
HOW MUCH
DO YOU
REMEMBER
ABOUT
THEM...?



DID I
DO ANY
THING?

HOW
MUCH
DO YOU
REMEM-
BER...?



BUT
I FEEL
REFRESHED
NOW.



I THINK
I SAW
YOU
SOMETIMES...

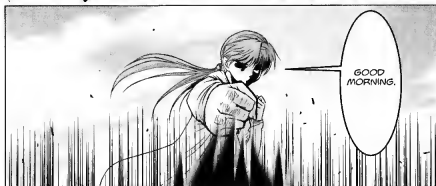
I FEEL
LIKE I
SLEPT FOR
A LONG
TIME. MY
MEMORIES
ARE KINDA
FUZZY...



I
REMEMBER
THAT
WE CALLED
MIWA IN
AND TALKED
ABOUT OUR
STRATEGIES.
WHAT
HAPPENED
THEN?

...OH!









EXCELSAGA





...AND
THAT
WOMAN'S
ALREADY
STARTED
DRINKING
BY
HER-
SELF-!

WAS
THERE
ANYTHING
WE
NEEDED
TO RAISE
A
TOAST
TO...?

It's
ready
noo.

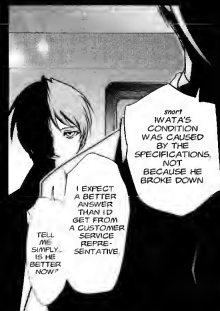
OKAY!

MISSION 4 A WRINKLED ANGEL





...WHAT'S
THIS?



I EXPECT
A BETTER
ANSWER
THAN I'D
GET FROM
A CUSTOMER
SERVICE
REPRE-
SENTATIVE

TELL
ME
SIMPLY...
IS HE
BETTER
NOW?

SHORT
IWATA'S
CONDITION
WAS CAUSED
BY THE
SPECIFICATIONS,
NOT
BECAUSE HE
BROKE DOWN



HOW
IS
HE?

WAS
IWATA
FIXED?



FIRST,
I
WANT
TO
ASK...

WHAT
HAP-
PENED...?

カ



LET
ME
ASK
YOU
ONE
MORE
TIME.

...WHAT
HAP-
PENED
TO
HIM?



HIS
INTERNAL
STRUCTURE
HASN'T
CHANGED.
BUT
SOMETHING
IS NOW
MEDIATING
HIS OUTPUT
AND
REACTIONS.

AS FOR
WHAT HIS
SENSES
PERCEIVE,
I AM NO
LONGER
ABLE TO
MONITOR
THEM.

YOU
CAN'T?
BUT...

I'M
SENDING
DUMMY
DATA
TO THE
DOCTOR.



I
DON'T
KNOW.
WATA
SEEMS
TO
HAVE
SUDDENLY
RETURNED
TO
NORMAL, BUT
I HAVE NO
IDEA WHY
THAT
HAPPENED.

I DON'T
KNOW
ANYTHING
ABOUT THE
INSIDE OF
THIS
RIDICULOUS
TECHNOLOGY...



...WHAT
YOU
SAID
MAKES
SENSE
TO
ME.

...

THAT
DOESN'T
SOUND
LIKE YOU.
I THOUGHT
YOU WERE
A GENUINE
MATERIALIST.

THAT.

ALL
SORTS
OF
THINGS,
INCLUDING
THE
OCCULT.

ARE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT
THE
OCCULT?

YOU'VE
SEEN
PHENOMENA
THAT
WERE
YOU TO
TELL
OTHERS
ABOUT
THEM.
THEY'D
THINK YOU
INSANE.

I'M
SURE...

It's No...

ONLY
THOSE WHO
CAN FACE
SUCH THINGS
AND NOT
REJECT
THEM, BUT
RATHER SAY
WITH
CONFIDENCE
AND HUMILITY,
'FOR THE
MOMENT, I
DON'T KNOW'
ACQUIRE
WISDOM.

I AM A
GENUINE
SCIENTIST.
AND THOSE
WHO CONSIDER
PHENOMENA
OCCULT
BECAUSE
THEY LACK
THE ABILITY
TO EXAMINE
THEM ARE
NOT
GENUINE
SCIENTISTS.

AND
AS
FOR
WHY...

IWATA'S MENTAL
CONDITION HAS
ALMOST COMPLETELY
RECOVERED--IN FACT,
IT MAY BE BETTER
THAN IT WAS
BEFORE.

SO
I'LL
ANSWER
YOUR
QUESTION





YES?

ALSO, THERE IS ONE THING I WANT TO ASK YOU, IF YOU DON'T MIND.

WE SHOULD HAVE KEPT A FAIL-SAFE.

WE DESTROYED A COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP!

IT WAS RARE FOR YOU TO LOSE YOUR COOL LIKE YOU DID THEN.

munch
munch

Thinking back now...



GOSH, THIS SURE PUTS ME ON THE SPOT.

ROFFON-MATSU IS MADE UP OF THE CORE, RIGHT?



I 100% MIND THAT QUESTION.

...WHAT IS THE "CORE"?



...AND NOT JUST IN A SUPERFICIAL WAY.

SHE WAS VERY HUMAN-LIKE...

IT'S DIFFICULT TO PUT IN WORDS, BUT, WELL...

...BUT DEFENDING ON WHETHER OR NOT THE CORE EXISTS...

I ADMIT THAT YOUR CREATION, NISHIKI, IS INCREDIBLE.





THAT'S
ALL I
KNOW.

I BELIEVE
I TOLD YOU
BEFORE, BUT
THE CORE
WAS
ORIGINALLY
BROUGHT
TO MY
FATHER
BY DR.
KABAFU.

I'M
MORE
CURIOUS
ABOUT
THE
CORE'S
ORIGINS.

I'M
NOT
ASKING
YOU TO
EXPLAIN
THE
TECHNICAL
ASPECTS.



EH?

WAS
THERE
ONLY
ONE?



IS
THERE
ONLY
ONE
CORE...?



ARE
YOU
TRYING
TO KILL
YOUR
FRIEND...?!

THERE
ARE
REALLY
ONLY A
FEW
PEOPLE
I CAN
TRUST.

„I DON'T
KNOW
THE
DETAILS,
BUT IT'S
JUST A
"PART,"
RIGHT...?"

IT'S
JUST
A
THOUGHT
THAT
OCCURRED
TO ME...

WHAT
MAKES
YOU
THINK
SO...?

THAT
WAS
NO
GOOD...

...SHICUJI
WAS
OBVIOUSLY
DISTURBED.



IS
THERE
NO LIMIT
TO YOUR
LUST FOR
CORPORATE
EXPANSION...?

YOU'RE
MAD!
MAD,
I TELL
YOU!



THE
BIGGER,
THE
BETTER. YOU
SEEM TO
FORGET WORLD
CONQUEST
IS OUR JOB.
WHAT
WOULD OUR
LORD THINK
IF HE
HEARD
YOU...?

U
MAD,
BRO?



MEANWHILE,
I, ELGALA,
HAVE
DISCORPORATED
DUE TO THE
STRAIN OF
BUYOUTS,
MERGERS, AND
ACQUISITIONS!



DON'T
LISTEN TO
YOUR
BODY,
ELGALA!
YOUR
BODY
IS LYING
TO YOU!

WORK
THROUGH
THE
PAIN!
THROUGH
THE
LOOSE,
WATERY
MUSCLES!

YES...
BUT...
YOU
SEE...
...I'M
DYING...



SENARIO
YOU'VE
DOUBLED
THE SIZE
OF LL!
IT'S
MADNESS...

I,
ELGALA,
HAVE ALWAYS
BEEN IN AWE...
OF SENIOR
EXCEL'S ABILITY
TO SAY THE
MOST TERRIBLE
THINGS AS IF
THEY WERE
WORDS OF
WISDOM!!

BELIEVE
IN
ME,
WHO
DOESN'T
BELIEVE
IN
YOU!!

DON'T
BELIEVE
IN
YOUR-
SELF!



I
DON'T
HAVE
TIME...
I
PROBABLY
DON'T.

OKAY...
TEN
MINUTE
BREAK!

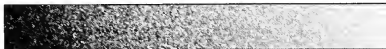
I'M
GONNA
REPORT
THIS
TO THE
LABOR
STANDARDS
INSPECTION
OFFICE!





WHAT
I
CAN
OFFER.

...TO
LORD
IL
PALAZZO
IS--



HELP
ME,
GLASSES-
MON!

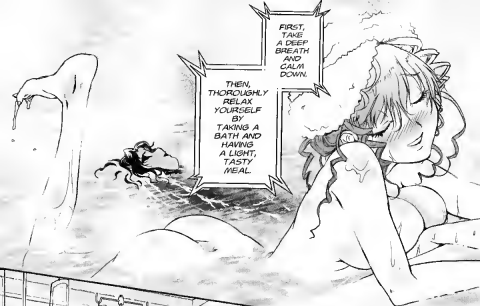
IF I
DON'T
TURN
HER
BACK
TO
NORMAL,
I'LL
DIE!

HERE'S
OUR
NEXT
TACTIC.



I
FEEL
LIKE
I'M
ABOUT
TO
COME
APART!

WHY
CAN'T
SHE
BE
A
NICE
SENIOR
LIKE
SENIOR
HYATT?
EXCEPT
FOR
CLEAN-UP,
SHE
NEVER
BOTHERS
ME.



FIRST,
TAKE
A DEEP
BREATH
AND
CALM
DOWN.

THEN,
THOROUGHLY
RELAX
YOURSELF
BY
TAKING A
BATH AND
HAVING
A LIGHT,
TASTY
MEAL.



THEN,
SPEND
TWO TO
THREE
HOURS
ENJOYING
PASSIVE
ENTERTAINMENT
SUCH AS
LISTENING TO
MUSIC, AND
THEN GET A
GOOD NIGHT'S
REST.





HAS
YOUR
FATIGUE
BEEN
RELIEVED?



I AM
REFRESHED,
YET
IRRITATED.

HE READ
ELGALA'S
MIND, WITHOUT
EVEN USING
THE STANDARD
METHOD OF
LISTENING TO
ME THINK
ALoud.

YOU
SEE,
WHEN
YOU'RE
TIRED,
YOUR
BRAIN
DOESN'T
WORK
PROPERLY.
STOP THE
RECORDER
NOW.



LYNN
IS ALSO--

IT'S
DIFFICULT
FOR
ME TO
HANDLE
MATA
NOW.



I
WONDER
WHAT MISS
MATSUYA
SAID...?
SHE
PROBABLY
WON'T
TELL
ME.

I
SHOULD
HAVE
REACTED
WITH
MORE
CARE.



ANOTHER
CORE...

I FEEL
LIKE I
HAVE
BEEN
RE-
BORN.

ARE
YOU
ALL
RIGHT,
SENIOR
HYATT?

I
SHOULD
RETRIEVE
ISSHIMI
FIRST.

I
FEEL
BAD
FOR MISS
MATSUYA,
BUT...

S
H
O
O
T
!





THE MAIN BACKUP WAS SERIOUSLY DAMAGED... AND THAT AFFECTS THE SYSTEM HERE!

JUST HOW MUCH TIME AND MONEY DO YOU THINK IT'LL TAKE US TO RECOVER..?



EH?
How surprising!

WE RECEIVED A CONCENTRATED ASSAULT ON THE SERVERS AT OUR HEADQUARTERS AND BRANCH OFFICES!



Like you're listening to me...

TOO MUCH AGGRESSION PROVOKES A BACKLASH.

I'LL TRACE THEM BACK!



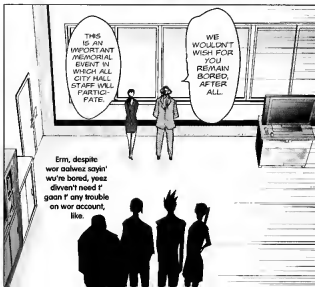
I SAID YOU WERE BEING RECKLESS, SENIOR!

PLEASE DON'T DRIP ON THE SERVERS, SENIOR HYATT.

UWL... WHAT IS...



DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ME!
I'M NOT GOING TO SIT HERE AND TAKE IT...!











DON'T
PLAY
DUMB
WITH
ME!!

ANYWAY,
WHAT
DO
YOU...



...WHY
ARE YOU
LOOKING
AT ME
LIKE
THAT,
MISS
MOMOCHI?

HOLD ON,
HOW
DID SHE
KNOW TO
ATTACK
THE
MAYOR'S
OFFICE...

Err,
Dokko,
what
did ye
see...?



...I'M
GOING
DESTROY
YOUR
FACILITY
IN
RETURN!!

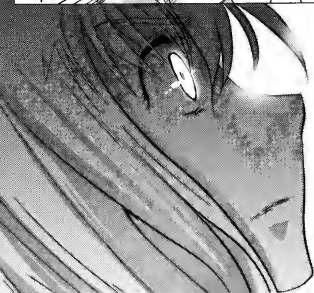
YOU
DARED
WASTE
MY
PRECIOUS
TIME...











...UMI LOOKS SO SAD, YOU KNOW...







Matsuya brought
th' ingredients,
but. ヲ

YOU
WON!
YOU
WERE
ACTUALLY
A HERO!
YOU
CAN'T
BE
IWATA!

AW,
C'WON!
I'M THE
HERO WHO
SHARED A
HOT-POT
WITH YOU!

ニカッ

...IWATA-
KUN?

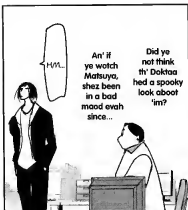
?

END MISSION 4



EXCELSAGA





HMM...

An' if
ye wotch
Matsuya,
shez been
in a bad
maod evah
since...

Did ye
not think
th' Doktaa
hed a spooky
look aboot
'im?



HIS
SUPER-
MAN-LIKE
BEHAVIOR
WAS
DEFINITELY
NOT
NORMAL.

MAYBE
IT
WAS
SOME-
THING
HE
ATE...



Ye
can say
things
like that
casually
naa?

JUST
WHEN
IWATA
FINALLY
RECOVERED...



H
H
H

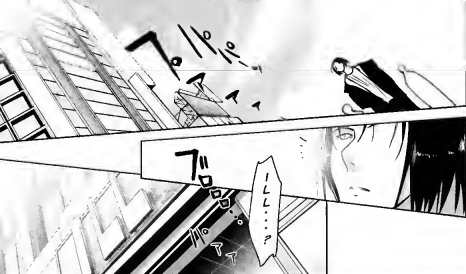
THEY
PAY US
WELL
THESE
DAYS,
YOU
KNOW...

Ah've
been
gaanin'
oot too
much t' eat
thez
days.

me lunch

ANY-
WAY...

LET'S
GO...



MISSION 5
THE SNEERING
DOCTOR







SHOULD
I GO
TALK
DIRECTLY
TO HER..?

WHAT
DO I
REALLY
WANT
TO
DO..?

..NO.
THE DOG
AND THAT
WOMAN WHO
RUNS ILL CAN
TALK ABOUT
ENEMIES, BUT
I DON'T WANT
TO BUY INTO
THEIR
CRAP.

DO
I
SEE
HER
AS MY
ENEMY..?



..AND
HOW
DO I
REALLY
SEE
HER
NOW?



..WHY
MUST I,
A MERE
LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
EMPLOYEE,
READ BETWEEN
THESE
COMPLICATED
LINES..



BUT SHE
WORKS FOR
ILL..MAYBE
SHE STILL
CONSIDERS
ME AS HER
ENEMY.

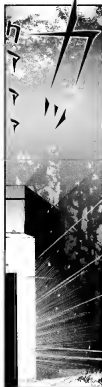


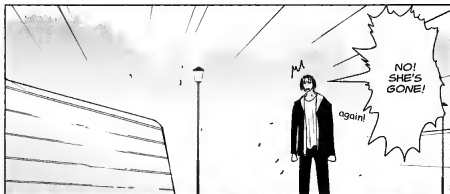














THE
SYSTEM
HAS
IDENTIFIED
THEM AS
KNOWN
GANG
STERS.

ER...

THEY'RE
NOT
MEANT TO
USE IT FOR
PRIVATE
PURPOSES...
SO
CASUALLY
WITHOUT
PERMISSION!

...DIDN'T
HE
KNOW
THAT'S
TOP-
SECRET
EQUIPMENT...?



AND
DOES HE
REALIZE
HOW
MUCH IT
COSTS
ME EVERY
TIME
THE
SUIT IS
USED...?

I HAVE
A POLICE
FORCE
FOR
THAT! IT'S
NOT HIS
JOB TO
FIGHT
CRIME!

YES,
DOCTOR.

...IT'S
THE
PRINCIPLE
THAT'S AT
STAKE!
ADD THE
BILL TO
HIS
DEBT!

ER...
NOT
THAT IT
MATTERS.











..THE
BUILDING
HAS
JUST
COLLAPSED
BEHIND
HIM

LEAVE
IT TO
THE
FIRE-
FIGHTERS!
THAT'S
THEIR
JOB...

HWF!
HE SEEMS
TO HAVE
DEVELOPED
QUITE THE
HERO
COMPLEX...



YES,
DOCTOR..

ADD
THE
BILL
TO HIS
DEBT!

MISS
MOMOCHI!



..BUT
ALL
THINGS
CONSIDERED,
I GUESS I
WAS LUCKY
TODAY..BECAUSE
AT LEAST
I GOT TO
SEE MISS
AYASUGI.

YES
?



..BUT
WHAT
WAS I
SUPPOSED
TO DO...?

I'VE
JUST
BEEN
RUNNING
INTO SO
MUCH BAD
LUCK
TODAY..



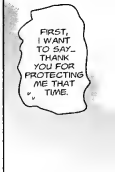
I
LOST
HER
AGAIN...



ZERO PREPARATION

MR.
WATA-
NABE
...?

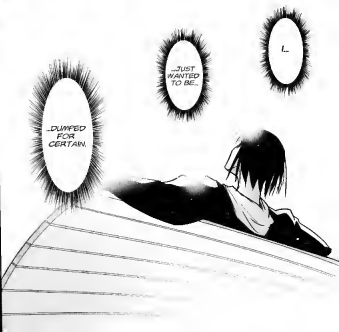


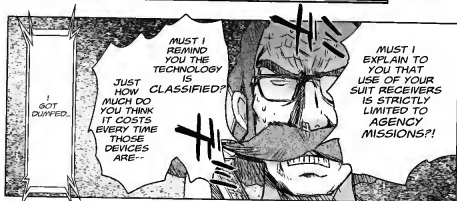






..I'M
GLAD
WE
TALKED
TODAY.









I GUESS I DON'T NEED TO HIT A DOG THAT'S FALLEN INTO THE RIVER



...MORE IMPORTANTLY... I THINK IT'S READY.

HA!

INSTEAD OF DEMORALIZING OUR EMPLOYEES BY CHARGING THEM WHAT'S REALLY A SMALL AMOUNT TO US, WE SHOULD REGARD IT AS A COST WE PAID TO GAIN DATA ON THE SUIT'S PERFORMANCE.





...I
AM
IN A
NICE
MOOD
TODAY.



TO BE HONEST...



THE CAUSE-EFFECT RELATIONSHIP WITH IWATA'S CONDITION IS STILL UNTESTED.

TO BE HONEST MYSELF, THIS IS A COINCIDENTAL EVENT CAUSED BY THE SPECIFICATIONS IN THE EXPERIMENTAL PROCESS.



WHAT ABOUT THE OPERATING TIME AND RANGE OF MOVEMENT...?

HE CAN BE TREATED AS DISPOSABLE.

THE REPRODUCIBILITY CANNOT BE GUARANTEED AS OF NOW.



YOUR KIND WORDS HONOR ME, BUT...



NOT
A
WORRY.

IF
HE HAS
TO FIGHT
IN A LONG,
DRAWN-OUT
BATTLE,
THE ODDS
ARE
AGAINST
HIM.



THE
OPERATING
TIME AT FULL
THROTTLE WAS
ORIGINALLY
SHORT, SO
IT'S NOT A
DRAMATIC
IMPROVEMENT.

IT'S
AN 180%
IMPROVE-
MENT
ON THE
PREVIOUS
TYPE.

...AND
THE
FUEL
COST?



...AFTER
ALL,
OUR MAIN
PURPOSE
IS TO
ELIMINATE
OBSTACLES...
NOT TO
FIGHT.

WE
DON'T
HAVE TO
CHASE OUR
ENEMY
TOO
FAR.

END MISSION 5



EXCEL'S AGA





MISSION 6
SHADOWS OF BLUE
AND SCARLET



SHOUL...

...DID
YOU...

...DO
SOME-
THING?





...WITH
SUCH
PERFECT
TIMING AS
THOUGH
IT WERE
SPECIFIED
BY AN
ELIMINATION
METHOD...

I DONT
KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE
TALKING ABOUT,
MY DEAR
MATSUYA. SO
ALLOW ME TO
STATE WHAT I
THINK IS
TRUE.



TRUE,
IT ISN'T
LIKE YOU...

WELL,
I
CERTAINLY
DID
NOTHING TO
DESERVE
SUCH A
SCARY
LOOK.



...THAT
IF
THINGS
REMAIN AS
THEY ARE
NOW...
NOTHING
WILL BE
SOLVED?

DONT
YOU
THINK...



I
SAID--

THIS
PATTERN
IS GOOD
FOR
IWATA,
TOO, YOU
KNOW?



WHY DO
YOU DO
THINGS TO
PROVOKE
THE
DOCTOR?

DONT
CHANGE
THE
SUBJECT.

I DONT
THINK
THAT
IWATA'S
CURRENT
CONDITION
IS
PERMANENT



MAKING
AN
ENEMY
OF HER
MAY
CAUSE
HEADACHES,
BUT--

THAT
WAS
THE
AGREEMENT,
RIGHT...?

WE
DON'T
HAVE
TO TELL
EVERYTHING,
BUT NO
LIES.



THAT
GRIN.

WHAT
I NEED
IS ISSHIKI,
ALTHOUGH
SHE IS
OUTSIDE MY
CONTROL
AS WELL.

--HONESTLY,
IN HIS
CURRENT
CONDITION,
IWATA IS
OUTSIDE MY
CONTROL.



I WAS
THINKING
THAT YOU
HAVE THE
SAME
SMILE
AS HIS.

NO...

I WAS
THINKING
ABOUT MY
SELF-
MOCKING
SELFISH-
NESS...

SORRY,
I WAS
LOST
IN
THOUGHT.



I'M
HONORED
THAT YOU
WOULD
SAY
SO.

YOU
DO
LOOK
LIKE
TENMAN-
GU.

YOUR
FATHER
USED TO
MAKE
THAT
EXPRESSION.





SORRY
THAT I
ALWAYS
MAKE YOU
PREPARE
UNNECESSARY
MEALS...

SHALL
I
COOK
SOME-
THING?

REALLY?
THANKS!

WELL,
I'M NOT
ONLY
FREELOADING,
BUT EATING
WHEN I
DON'T
NEED
FOOD.

WHAT
MAKES
YOU SAY
THAT
ALL
OF A
SUDDEN..?

...?



...AND
ALSO,
YOU SAY
YOU'RE A
FREELOADER,
BUT I WONDER
IF I'M SO
DIFFERENT,
MR. IWATA.

OH,
YEAH
...?

I THINK
THERE'S
MORE
TO FOOD
THAN
JUST
"NUTRITION."

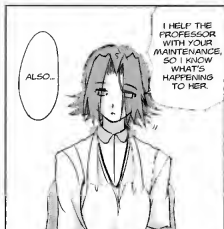
I DON'T
BREAK
PLATES
EVERY
TIME
I COOK,
ALTHOUGH
I JUST
DID.

I FEEL
BAD THAT I
MAKE YOU
BREAK
ALL
THOSE
PLATES...











I THINK THERE WERE A TOTAL OF THREE REASONS.

...AND JUST FOR THAT ONE REASON, I WAS TREATED DIFFERENTLY AT SCHOOL.



MY MOTHER USED TO HIT ME EVERY TIME SHE SAW MY REPORT CARD.

I ENVY YOU.

I WAS ONCE CALLED A CHILD PRODIGY..



THIS HOUSE IS FULL OF SF STUFF..

ALL I CAN DO IS HELP WITH THE HOUSEWORK.. AND THESE GAMES.

I WISH I HAD THE INTELLECT TO TRULY ASSIST HIS RESEARCH, BUT COMPARED TO HIM, I'M AN IDIOT.



BUT THROUGH THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE PROFESSOR'S PARENTS AND MINE, I WAS INTRODUCED TO HIS FAMILY. I USED TO THINK I WAS SO SMART..

...BUT I'VE SEEN THINGS HERE THAT WERE BEYOND MY IMAGINATION.









...AND
IF YOU
NEED
HELP...
YOU CAN
CALL
ON ME,
TOO!

YOU
SHOULD
DO
WHATEVER
YOU CAN
FOR
NOW...

THERE
MUST BE
SOMETHING
YOU CAN
DO FOR
TERIHA!



NO...
I'M
SORRY.

UM...
WHY
ARE YOU
LAUGHING?
I THOUGHT
I WAS
BEING
NICE...



UM...

Come
to
think
of it...

...AND
YOU TWO
HATE
EACH
OTHER.

IT'S JUST
FUNNY YOU
SAID THAT,
BECAUSE I
REMEMBER
SECOND-
CHAN
SAID THE
SAME
THING...

I'M
SORRY,
TOO,
FOR
TALKING
BIG
really
sorry.



TIME TO RE-CHARGE...



AND THANK YOU FOR DINNER.



NO... BEING LISTENED TO SOMEHOW MAKES IT SEEM EASIER.

SO THANK YOU.

UM... GOOD LUCK...



DID I,
BY ANY
CHANCE,
JUST
PROVIDE...

... "ADVICE"
TO
HER?

A First-Time Achievement
in the Life of Norikuni Iwata



WHAT
IF MY
VOICE
DOESN'T
REACH
HER...?

...THAT'S
JUST
AN
EXCUSE
FOR
DOING
NOTHING.

JUST
WAIT...



10-15-11







This iz
not th' propaa
time for
this an'
aall!

Nae.



DON'T
EVEN
JOKE!

"CLEAN
THE
PLACE
BEFORE
YOU
LEAVE,
HUH?"

Ah, set-o timoo
prur-grom on
me PC sur if wu
diwv'n't come
back, ool me
data gets
erased, like.



Wu're
in a bad
situation noo
akshully...

YEP, AT ANY
MOMENT THE
EVIL MUSTACHE
WIZARD MAY
SEND US BACK
ON A QUEST
TO ISSHIKI'S
DUNGEON.



ANYWAY,
I'M
FINE
NOW...



FOR WHAT
IS A LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
EMPLOYEE
SUPPOSED
TO
PREPARE...?

Howay,
ahm not
jurkin' mon.
Hev ye
not mode
preparations
or owf?

TITANIUM IS NOT AN EXCEPTIONALLY HARD MINERAL.

I TRIED EVERYTHING YOU SAID, GLASSES-MON, BUT THAT TITANIUM HEAD OF HERS REMAINS HARD AS TITANIUM!

I, ELGALA, SAY THAT I, ELGALA, HAVE FOUND THIS MISSION IMPOSSIBLE!

THAT'S ENOUGH !

UNSTABLE AS EVER

AND HOW IS YOUR SENIOR'S MIND..?

IT REMAINS STABLE AS EVER.

..NEVER MIND. HOW'S MY SENIOR'S BODY?



ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT I'LL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE HEALTH OF YOUR SENIOR'S BODY, AND YOU CONTINUE TO KEEP ME INFORMED OF HER MENTAL STATUS.

...WELL, IF YOU'VE DONE EVERYTHING I SUGGESTED, I CAN'T BLAME YOU.

OH.

I SEE.

SINCE SENIOR RUSHED OFF THE BASE THE OTHER DAY, SHE'S BEEN IN A PRETTY BAD MOOD. I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO HER.

WHAT'S MAINTAINING THEIR STABILITY..?

IF I ONLY KNEW THAT

...EVEN CONSIDERING THE GAP BETWEEN THEIR ORIGINAL CONDITIONS.. THEY'VE BEEN TOO STABLE.



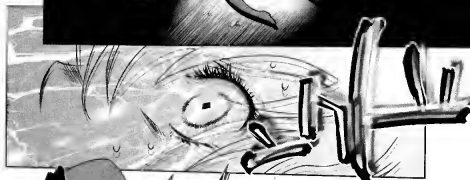


...THIS
BODY
IS NOT
AS
STRONG
AS I
THOUGHT.

IT'S A
SHAME
THAT
HE
DEFEATED
ME..

HOW
DID I
EVEN
GET
THIS
BODY?

WHAT'S
THE
POINT OF
HAVING
IT
ANYWAY,
THEN...?



AM
I
GOING
BACK...?

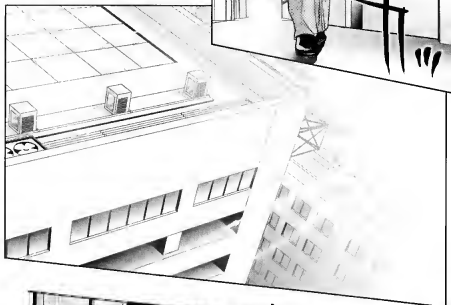
...AGHH
!!

...NOT
YET
!!

N-NOT
YET...









I WAS
BATTLING
THE
WORLD'S
STRONGEST
STREET
FIGHTERS
ALL NIGHT
LONG AND
AM UTTERLY
EXHAUSTED.

Ah hev
indigestion
an' a geet big
hangawah.

I HAVE
HEARTBURN
AND I
FEEL LIKE
THROWING
UP.

I'M
GLAD
TO SEE
YOU'RE
ALL
WELL.

HMM
!!





IT'S TIME
FOR ME TO
TELL YOU
YOUR NEXT
MISSION...

END MISSION 6





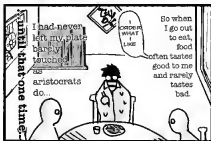
About that next mission!
With Iwata recovered...

**...the four head for the
underground empire
once again...along
with a fifth person!**

**And Unit
follows them...
together with...**

**Jam-packed with
unpredictable
surprises!
Dare you miss...
Excel Saga Vol. 25?!**

Magical Insect ☆☆ Pinch-chan!



**A
N
S
W
E
R
...**

**...T
H
E
P
H
O
N
E!**



**THE
END**

Goodbye, Pinch-Chan!

That's
no fun!
They should
be seriously
injured or
get sick!



They're
all
socially
isolated
and are only
in minor
pinches!



Your
cell phone
is so noisy!
Why
don't
you
answer
it?

...SMELLS
LIKE
A
PINCH!



WAIT
A
SEC!
THIS
PHONE...

AND
A
HIGH-
QUALITY
PINCH
AT
THAT...



EXCEL SAGA

XXIV

Excel Saga 24

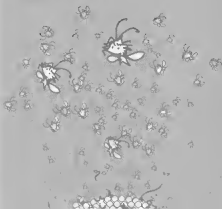
ORIGINAL JAPANESE PRODUCTION STAFF

STORY AND ART BY
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PICTORIAL ASSISTANCE
TAKEPON G
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SHOHEI UEDA
UNAMU KIHAYASHIDA

EDITOR
YOSHIYUKI FUDETANI

(In Japanese alphabetical order. Honorary titles are omitted.)



Guide to *Excel Saga* 24's Sound Effects!

12.1	FX THOA (wan: feeling strong)
12.3	FX PLUCK (buchihi: pulling the cords)
13.5	FX BLECH (gee: feeling disgusted)
16.2	FX HONK (pusan: car honking)
16.2	FX HONK (pagan: car honking)
16.2	FX VROOM (busu: engine sound)
16.3	FX MUMBLE (busu: engine mumbling)
16.5	FX DASH (ta: dashing)
16.5	FX SQUEAK (koto: suddenly stopping/sudden braking)
17.3	FX JOLT (niku: being startled)
17.3	FX CHAK (cha: opening the cell phone)
17.4	FX HUMBLE (goso: goso: humming)
17.4	FX BUP (pa: kiko)
18.1	FX BUP (pa: kiko)
18.2	FX CLOMP (zue: footsteps)
18.4	FX CREAK (gigirinin: the sign being bent)
18.4	FX CREAK (nini: the sign being bent)
18.2	FX PANT PANT (haz haz: panting)
18.2	FX WHEEZE (haz zee: wheezing)
18.3	FX CLOP CLOP (ka ka: footsteps)
18.3	FX WHEEZE (zue zee: wheezing)
18.3	FX WOBBLE (yeta yeta: wobbling)
18.4	FX WHEEZE (zue zee: wheezing)
18.4	FX WOBBLE (yeta yeta: wobbling)
20.2	FX CLICK CLICK (koku: typing)
20.2	FX CLICK (ka: typing)
20.4	FX CLICK CLICK (kakaku: typing)
21.2	FX TITTER (turu turu: tittering)
21.2	FX WHACK (go: hitting himself against the wall)
21.3	FX THUD (bata: falling down)
21.3	FX TITTER (turu: tittering)
21.6	FX THROB THROB (doki doki : heart throbbing)
21.8	FX CLICK (kachi: clicking)
22.2	FX JOLT (niku: being startled)
22.2	FX CLICK (kachi: clicking)
22.4	FX CLICK (kachi: clicking)
22.5	FX TWITCH (ira: being frustrated)
22.5	FX CLICK (kachi: pressing hard)
23.1	FX GASP (ha: gasping)
23.1	FX STICKY (naka naka: being sticky)
23.3	FX DASH (ta: dashing)
23.5	FX DASH (ta: dashing)
25.1	FX WEEP (paa: weeping)
25.2	FX SOB (jue: sobbing)
25.3	FX JOLT (doki: being startled)
25.4	FX CLOP (ku: footsteps)
26.1	FX GRAB (kishi: grabbing)
26.2	FX SHAKE (turu turu: shaking)
26.3	FX SPLASH (gubaboku: blood splashing)
26.4	FX COUGH (goba goba: coughing blood)
27.1	FX GULP GULP (nku nku nku: drinking)
30.1	FX COUGH (kufe: coughing)
31.2	FX PUFF (bua: letting out a breath)
32.1	FX WIGGLE (poco: wiggling)

Most of Rikdo Koshi's original sound FX are left in their original Japanese in the VIZ Media edition of *Excel Saga*, exceptions being handwritten dialogue and "drawn" notes that have the character of captions. Although these sounds are all listed as "FX," they are of two types: onomatopoeia (in Japanese, *giseigo*) where the writing is used in an attempt to imitate the actual sound of something happening, and mimesis (in Japanese, *gitaigo*) where the writing is used to attempt to convey rhetorically a state, mood, or condition. Whereas the first type of FX will invariably be portrayed with kana, the second may use kana and/or kanji. One should note that there is often overlap between these two types. As always, the numbers are given in the original Japanese reading order, right-to-left.

I know we exist in a wondrous age of iPads now, but if you're seized by a sudden steampunk desire to despatch a missive via post, endorse your communication thusly:

Oubliette c/o Excel Saga
VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

5.2	FX SPLASH (akari: water splashing)
5.2	FX TWIST (kyu: twisting a wet towel)
7.1	FX KNOCK KNOCK (kon kon: knocking)
7.2	FX CHAK (cha: the door opening)
7.3	FX TICK (chikchi: the computer operating)
7.4	FX TICK TICK (chiki chiki: the computer operating)
7.4	FX ZZZ (asa: one: sleeping)
7.5	FX CLICK CLICK (kato kato: typing)
7.5	FX TICK TICK (chiki chiki: the computer operating)
10.2	FX PUSH (gabe: getting up)
11.1	FX BUP (pipo: sleeping sound)
11.2	FX LICK (pa: licking)
11.2	FX BAZE (habe: exhausted)
11.4	FX TICK TICK (chi chikichi: machines operating)

50.2	FX RING (jirinrin: a phone ringing)	32.1	FX BEEP (poke: beeping)
50.3	FX SPLASH (bui: splashing)	32.2	FX SHFF (nose nose: getting out of bed)
50.4	FX CLACK (ban shishidooshu: clicking)	32.3	FX SQUEEZE (gyuu: squeezing)
50.5	FX BEEP (bee bee bee: beeping)	32.5	FX STRETCH (ne: stretching)
50.5	FX RUMBLE (gyooo: rumbling)	34.1	FX SNAP (puchi: the line being cut off)
51.1	FX BEEP (bee bee bee: beeping)	34.2	FX THUD (ta: sitting down)
51.2	FX RUMBLE (gyooooo: rumbling)	34.3	FX SHF (see: moving hand quietly)
51.3	FX BEEP (bee bee bee: beeping)	35.2	FX SALUTE (zazu: saluting)
51.4	FX BAM (don: impact sound)	35.3	FX RUMBLE (gyooooo: rumbling)
51.5	FX KABOOM (pakaapoo: impact sound)	35.4	FX SQUEEZE (gyuuu: squeezing)
51.6	FX BANG (dagaga: shooting sound)	35.5	FX HINW (soya: calling out encouragement)
51.6	FX KABOOM (don: impact sound)	35.5	FX THUMP (dokuro: heart beating)
51.6	FX BANG (bakuran dokuro: shooting sound)	35.5	FX THUMP (dokuro: heart beating)
52.1	FX KABOOM (dogaaaa: blast)	35.6	FX THUMP (dokuro: heart beating)
52.2	FX CRACK (bake: cracking)	35.7	FX THUMP (dokuro: heart beating)
52.2	FX HAHHAH-HAH (wahahaha: laughing)	35.2	FX WIFE (see: wiping)
52.2	FX RUMBLE (gyoooo: rumbling)	35.4	FX WOODSH (shu: the automatic door opening)
53.1	FX RUMBLE (gyoo: rumbling)	35.4	FX MUMBLE (butsu butsu: mumbling)
53.1	FX BAM (ban: impact sound)	35.6	FX SWISH SWISH (wata wata: water: moving her hands quickly)
53.2	FX BAM (don: impact sound)	40.5	FX CLICK (kachi: clicking)
53.2	FX TUM TUM (churu chu: music from the video game)	41.1	FX STAGGER (taro taro: staggering)
53.3	FX RUMBLE (dadao: rumbling)	41.2	FX PHEW (hee: sighing)
54.4	FX RING RING (tanuranu: a cell phone ringing)	41.2	FX RING RING (tanuranu: a cell phone ringing)
54.4	FX BLUP (pi: blip)	41.3	FX BLUP (pi: blip)
54.6	FX RUMBLE (gyooo: rumbling)	41.6	FX BAM (baan: door opening)
55.3	FX PUMP (baki: holding up fists)	41.7	FX RUMBLE (su go pi: rumbling)
55.6	FX BLUP (pi: blip)	42.1	FX DUB-A-DUB (dondoko dondoko: drum sound)
57.1	FX TICK (chiki: the computer operating)	42.1	FX SIZZLE (jau jau: sizzling)
57.1	FX TICK (chi: the computer operating)	42.1	FX DUB-A-DUB (don don don: drum sound)
57.6	FX TWITCH (jau: twitching)	42.1	FX DUB-A-DUB (don don don: drum sound)
57.7	FX SHF (oyaru: touching the screen)	42.2	FX SIZZLE (chikaku jau jau: sizzling)
58.1	FX TICK (chi: the computer operating)	42.3	FX DUB-A-DUB (doko doko: drum sound)
58.2	FX HMM... (kyuu: bang confused)	42.3	FX DUB-A-DUB (don don: drum sound)
58.2	FX BLUP (pi: blip)	42.3	FX DUB-A-DUB (dododon don: drum sound)
58.3	FX WHIRR (gyoooo: accelerating)	43.1	FX DUB-A-DUB (doko don: drum sound)
58.5	FX PANG PANG (zoo are: being dismayed)	43.2	FX DUB-A-DUB (don don dokidokido: drum sound)
59.1	FX THRILLED (waku waku: feeling thrilled)	43.3	FX DUB-A-DUB (doko doko doko: drum sound)
59.1	FX UNZIP (jiji: unzipping)	43.4	FX BAM (don: drum/impact sound)
59.4	FX CLICK (kake: clicking)	44.2	FX MUNCH (maga maga: munching)
59.4	FX BEEP (chi: beeping)	44.2	FX RUMBLE (do do do do do: rumbling)
59.4	FX CLANG (pake: the gate opening)	44.3	FX GULP (gokuri: gulping)
59.4	FX WIGGLE (jita jita: wiggling)	44.4	FX GLARE (hi: glaring)
59.4	FX UNZIP (jiji: unzipping)	44.4	FX RING RING (tanuranu: a cell phone ringing)
59.4	FX CLAP CLAP (pachi pachi: clapping)	44.4	FX GULP (gokuri: swallowing)
59.5	FX STAGGER (yaru: staggering)	44.6	FX CLANK (bakoon: clink)
59.2	FX PHEW (hee: sighing)	45.1	FX KLANK (bakoon: clank)
59.5	FX UGH (see: growling)	45.2	FX FLOAT (tapan: floating)
59.5	FX HEH (hi: cynical snick)	46.1	FX BAM (ban: impact sound)
59.6	FX MINM (muu: greeting)	47.2	FX SHIVER (paka: feeling a chill)
59.1	FX PUFF (pushuu: air coming out)	47.6	FX MUMBLE (butsu: mumbling)
59.2	FX CLICK (kake: clicking)	47.5	FX MUMBLE (butsu: mumbling)
59.6	FX TMP TMP (peta peta: footsteps)	48.4	FX GLARE (hi: glaring)
59.1	FX TMP TMP (peta peta: footsteps)	49.1	FX THUMP (doko: heart beating)
70.3	FX BAM (ban: banging)	49.4	FX GLARE (hi: glaring)
70.3	FX WAKE (poke: getting up)	49.5	FX CLOP CLOP (ko ko ko: footsteps)
70.4	FX WHIRR (kyuu: screen appearing)	50.1	FX CLACK (bakoon: shishidooshu, a garden ornament made of bamboo, clicking)
71.1	FX THUD (peter: lying down)	50.2	FX HAHHAH-HAH (wahahaha: laughing)
71.3	FX MUMBLE (butsu butsu: mumbling)		

83.1	FX SWELL (purer: swelling)
83.2	FX BLOW (sufuu: suffice: blowing)
83.2	FX BLOW (sufuu sufuu sufuu: blowing)
83.4	FX BAM (pam: the balloon bursting)
83.5	FX ROAR (roo: roaring)
83.6	FX CLACK (kaku: clucking)
83.6	FX CLACK (kaku: clucking)
83.7	FX THUMP (dokun: heart beating)
83.8	FX PHEW (huu: sighing)
84.1	FX HOWL (hyuu: a wind howling)
84.2	FX ROAR (roo: roaring)
84.3	FX BUZZ (za zara: buzzing)
85.1	FX CLOMP (za: a footstep)
85.1	FX BAM (bamu: hitting)
85.1	FX PUFF (paa: puffing)
85.3	FX PANG PANG (ota ota ota ota ota: feeling dizzy)
85.4	FX CLOMP (za: footstep)
85.5	FX DASH (doo: dashing)
86.3	FX WAFT (hu: regaining consciousness)
86.4	FX SNAP (pachi: eyes opening)
86.5	FX ROAR (roo: roaring)
86.7	FX SLAP (bui: slapping)
87.1	FX TUG (pui: tugging)
87.5	FX PHEW (hyuu: sighing)
88.1	FX TMP (ta: a footstep)
88.2	FX TAP (ta: landing)
88.3	FX HOWL (hyuu: a wind howling)
88.4	FX RUSTLE (basa basa: hair rustling)
89.1	FX WHAM (mashi: punching)
89.3	FX THUD (doo: falling down)
89.3	FX THROB THROB (zaki zaki: throbbing pain)
89.3	FX RING RING (tensensu: a cell phone ringing)
89.4	FX BUP (pi: bup)
89.4	FX HOWL (hyuu: a wind howling)
90.1	FX SHAKE (bumaru: shaking)
90.2	FX BUP (pi: baring off a cell phone)
90.3	FX INHALE (sue: inhaling)
90.4	FX EXHALE (hoo: exhaling)
90.5	FX ROAR (roo: roaring)
90.5	FX BAM (con: hitting)
91.1	FX RUSTLE (za: fleeing forward)
91.1	FX SIMMER (gutsu gutsu: simmering)
91.2	FX AHH (aa: exclamation)
91.2	FX SLAP (tishi: slapping)
91.2	FX SIMMER (gutsu: gas: simmering)
91.3	FX SIMMER (gutsu gutsu gutsu: simmering)
91.3	FX CLATTER (kacha kacha kacha: clattering)
91.1	FX SIMMER (katsu katsu katsu: simmering)
91.1	FX POUR (tu to to: pouring beer)
91.2	FX MUNCH MUNCH (huhu hoho: munching hot food)
91.3	FX WHACK (gaki: impact sound)
91.3	FX SIZZLE (ja: sizzling)
91.3	FX BITE (maki: biting)
91.3	FX BAM (jam: impact sound)
91.1	FX RUMBLE (gocoon: rumbling)
91.2	FX BAM (con: impact sound)
91.3	FX ZZZ (gaa: snoring)
91.1	FX CLUCK (kachi: clucking)
91.1	FX CLUCK (kachi kachi: clucking)

71.4	FX MUMBLE (butsu: before: mumbling)
71.5	FX TMP (sata: walking fast)
71.5	FX TMP (sata: walking fast)
71.5	FX TMP (sata: walking fast)
71.6	FX MMM (moo: growling)
71.7	FX THUMP (outson: something falling)
72.3	FX HOWL (hyuu: a wind howling)
73.1	FX PHEW (huu: sighing)
73.3	FX CLOMP (za: a footstep)
74.1	FX KABOOM (dodon: explosion)
74.1	FX CRACKLE (kachi: crackling)
75.1	FX WHOSH (mofu: smoke coming out)
75.1	FX STAGGER (tama: staggering)
75.2	FX CLACK (kaku: clucking)
75.2	FX WHOSH (shuuu: smoke coming out)
75.4	FX FWP (kaba: getting up abruptly)
75.5	FX THUD (doo: falling down)
76.2	FX SQUEEZE (gyassu: squeezing)
76.2	FX BAM BAM (doku doku doku doku: punching)
76.3	FX SNAP (paa: being separated)
76.4	FX SQUEEZE (hyuu: squeezing)
76.4	FX RUB RUB (pui: rub: rubbing his face against Nishi)
76.4	FX SQUEEZE (gagugugugu: squeezing)
77.1	FX SIGH (huu: sighing)
77.1	FX SQUEEZE (giri:in: squeeze)
77.1	FX SQUEEZE (giri:in: squeeze)
77.2	FX SQUEEZE (gagugu: squeeze)
77.3	FX HM HMM (hatsu: nodding)
77.4	FX HAH (ye: adjusting)
77.4	FX THUMP (dokun: heart beating)
78.2	FX CHAK (che: opening a cell phone)
78.3	FX OOOT (paa: dead phone line)
78.4	FX CLOMP (ta: a footstep)
78.5	FX FUP (hyu: being separated)
78.5	FX WHIR (hyuu: whirling)
79.1	FX CLUCK CLUCK (kaka: clucking)
79.1	FX WHIR (hyuu: whirling)
79.2	FX WHIR (hyuu: whirling)
79.3	FX WHIRRR (hyuuu: whirling)
79.4	FX WHOSH (shuu: air coming out)
79.4	FX CRACK CRACK (kaki kaki: cracking)
79.5	FX HA (ho: hitting)
79.5	FX FWP (kaba: holding)
79.6	FX ROAR (roo: roaring)
79.7	FX TMP TMP (to do to: running up)
80.1	FX WHOSH (hyuu: flying)
80.2	FX ROAR (roo: roaring)
80.2	FX TAP (ta: landing)
80.2	FX SQUEEZE (giri: squeezing)
80.3	FX ROAR (roo: roaring)
80.4	FX HOWL (hyuu: a wind howling)
81.1	FX ROAR (roo: roaring)
81.2	FX GRAB (gri: grabbing)
81.5	FX SIGH (hoo: sighing)
82.1	FX HOWL (hyuuu: a wind howling)
82.3	FX CLUCK (pachi: clucking)
83.1	FX BLOW (peta: blowing a balloon)
83.1	FX BLOW (sue: blowing)

1172	FX SCRATCH (pet: scratching)	973	FX SIGH (hss: sighing)
1173	FX CLANG (garage: debris falling)	981	FX SHF (he: adjusting the glasses)
1173	FX CRASH (pacha: glass crashing)	982	FX THUMP (dahan: heart beating)
1181	FX THUD (docha: falling down)	981	FX HEAP (docha: heaping a bowl)
1181	FX BAM (ga: impact sound)	982	FX MUNCH (ncha mcha: munching)
1182	FX RUMBLE (para gacha: rumbling)	982	FX FOMP (za: sitting down)
1183	FX SWAY (yuna: swaying)	993	FX COUGH (pacho: coughing)
1184	FX WHOOSH (chuuu: whooshing sound)	994	FX COUGH (kaho kaho: coughing)
1185	FX WHOOSH (zsa: raising a hand)	1001	FX MUNCH (ncha mcha: munching)
1183	FX GRAB (gashi: grabbing)	1014	FX CLANG (gata: chair rattling)
1181	FX FWP (kyun: moving fast)	1031	FX GLARE (bi: glare)
1182	FX WHISPER (hiss: whispering)	1034	FX WOBBLE (yaroro: wobbling)
1182	FX WHISPER (hiss: whispering)	1034	FX GRAB (ga: grabbing)
1182	FX SIGH (hss: sighing)	1041	FX BAM (den: impact sound)
1201	FX SLAP (baschi: slapping)	1041	FX BACK (jee: discomfort feeling)
1201	FX UGH (eke: ouch)	1042	FX DASH (das: dashing)
1202	FX TMP (za: a footstep)	1042	FX WEEP (waaa: weeping)
1202	FX OUCH (hach: ouch)	1042	FX GRAB (para zara: dragging)
1203	FX SQUEEZE (gye: squeezing)	1044	FX CLOMP (ka: footstep)
1204	FX BAM (das: impact sound)	1054	FX WHEEZE (zsa zsa: wheezing)
1211	FX JUMP (tume: jumping)	1055	FX FLASH (aka: flashing)
1212	FX CLANG (karan: debris falling)	1071	FX SHINY (tuya: shiny skin)
1212	FX HOWL (nyuu: a wind howling)	1072	FX CLANG (ka: clang)
1212	FX HOWL (uu: a wind howling)	1072	FX BAM (gan: hitting sound)
1214	FX WHISPER (hiss hss: whispering)	1083	FX WHEEZE (zsa z: wheezing)
1215	FX POINT (hichi: pointing)	1083	FX WHOOSH (chuuuu: whooshing sound)
1221	FX EHT (ee: exclamation)	1082	FX WHACK (gan: impact sound)
1222	FX CLOMP CLOMP (nka nka: walking fast)	1085	FX HOWL (nyuuuu: a window howling)
1223	FX TAP (gan: tapping)	1101	FX HONK (paaaa: car honking)
1224	FX GRIN (nka: grinning)	1102	FX RUSTLE (pasa: paper rustling)
1231	FX DOOM DOOM (dosa dosa: heavy footsteps)	1104	FX COUGH (pacho: coughing)
1231	FX TWITCH (nuka nuka: being irritated)	1111	FX TWITCH (piku: twitching)
1251	FX HONK (paaaa: car honking)	1114	FX TUG (ga: putting pressure on)
1253	FX CLANK (pacha: chair rattling)	1114	FX GRAB (gata: grabbing)
1256	FX HONK (paaaa: car honking)	1116	FX CRASH (barie: window crashing)
1256	FX HONK (paaaa: car honking)	1121	FX ROAR (gaa: roaring)
1271	FX HONK (paaaa: car honking)	1121	FX CRASH (jani: glass crashing)
1271	FX HONK (paaaa: car honking)	1131	FX CRACK (mashi: the wall cracking)
1272	FX VROOM (baroro: engine sound)	1132	FX CRACK (mashi: the wall cracking)
1273	FX HONK (paaa: car honking)	1132	FX CRACK (mari: the wall cracking)
1275	FX SIGH (hss: sighing)	1141	FX CLOMP (dosa: heavy footstep)
1276	FX GASP (ha: gasping)	1141	FX CRASH (barie: glass crashing)
1277	FX CLIP (ka: a footstep)	1141	FX DASH (ba: dashing)
1284	FX MURMUR (zawa zawa: people murmuring)	1143	FX WHACK (gata: impact sound)
1284	FX HONK (paaaa: car honking)	1143	FX WHAM (kachi: impact sound)
1284	FX HONK (paaaa: car honking)	1151	FX KABOOM (dahan: explosion)
1285	FX CLATTER (kachi: cup clattering)	1152	FX RUMBLE (do do: rumbling)
1285	FX GASP (ha: gasping)	1153	FX CLANG CLANG (garagara: debris falling)
1303	FX SPLASH (ga: coffee splashing)	1154	FX BAM BAM (ga ga: impact sound)
1305	FX SIGH (hss: sighing)	1155	FX SULK (ma: getting sulky)
1312	FX TWITCH (piku: twitching)	1155	FX RUMBLE (do do: rumbling)
1313	FX PHEW (he: feeling relieved)	1156	FX WHACK (gan: impact sound)
1313	FX CHAK (gacha: turning the door knob)	1156	FX BAM (den: impact sound)
1314	FX MURMUR (zawa zawa: murmuring)	1157	FX WHAM (gaki: impact sound)
1315	FX SHUT (pachi: the door closing)	1161	FX PHEW (he: feeling relieved)
1316	FX SIGH (hss: sighing)	1161	FX PHEW (byuu: sighing)
1316	FX CLANG (gata: table rattling)	1181	FX SIZZLE (shuuu: sizzling)
1318	FX CHAK (cha: turning the door knob)	1171	FX CLEANCH (gri: clenching)
1321	FX THUMP (dahan: heart beating)		

154.1	FX BOOM (doe: blast)	132.2	FX CLANG (gate rattling)
154.2	FX KABOOM BOOM (doe:don: blasts)	132.2	FX SHUT (paten: the door closing)
154.3	FX ROAR (gcoos: roaring)	132.3	FX WHEEZE (ze: ze: wheezing)
157.1	FX ROAR (gcoos: roaring)	132.4	FX SIGH (haa: sighing)
162.2	FX SHABBY (baa: worn-out looking)	133.1	FX CLANG (gate: the door opening)
162.3	FX CLUMP CLUMP (gape: gape: footsteps)	133.3	FX GASP (ha: gasping)
162.4	FX TITTER (tura: tura: twittering)	133.5	FX DASH (dae: dashing)
163.2	FX COOK (cha: cha: cooking)	134.3	FX MUMBLE (buts: buts: mumbling)
163.5	FX CLATTER (chic: a plate clattering)	134.6	FX RUSTLE (hass: bass: bird flying)
163.5	FX CRASH (parin: a plate crashing)	135.1	FX BAM (den: impact sound)
163.5	FX CLANG (chei: a plate crashing)	136.2	FX THUMP (go: hitting against a bag)
163.7	FX SIMMER (kutsu: kutsu: simmering)	135.3	FX CLANG (gate: opening the case)
164.1	FX CRASH (gacha: a plate crashing)	135.5	FX CLUMP (ku: a footstep)
164.5	FX CLATTER (kacha: silverware clattering)	136.1	FX RUMBLE (go: go: go: rumbling)
164.5	FX MUNCH (mon: mon: munching)	136.2	FX AH (aa: acclamation)
165.2	FX MUNCH (moku: moku: munching)	136.4	FX FLASH (ku: flashing)
165.4	FX GULP (puu: drinking)	136.4	FX AHH (kuuuu: scream)
165.6	FX CLANG (gate: chair rattling)	136.6	FX TUSS (pui: tussling)
165.7	FX MUNCH (moku: moku: munching)	137.1	FX SNIFF (ku: sniffing)
166.1	FX MUNCH (moku: moku: munching)	137.4	FX CLANG (gate: chair rattling)
166.5	FX SIGH (haa: sighing)	138.2	FX BAM (den: impact sound)
167.2	FX THUD (ku: sitting down)	138.4	FX PANT PANT (ha: ha: ha: panting)
168.3	FX BLUNT (zupu: zupu: zupu: being blunt)	139.2	FX PHEW (ha: feeling relieved)
169.2	FX CLENCH (gu: clenching)	139.2	FX SIGH (haa: sighing)
170.2	FX MUMMY? (mme: question)	139.4	FX BREATHE (suka: suka: breathing)
170.6	FX LEAN (ku: leaning forward)	139.5	FX SNIFF (ku: sniffing)
170.7	FX THUMBS-UP (gu: thumb-up)	140.1	FX ROAR (gcoos: roaring)
171.1	FX THUMBS-UP (dabshi: thumb-up)	140.2	FX MURMUR (zawa: zawa: zawa: zawa: people murmuring)
171.3	FX BURST (pu: bursting into laughter)	141.3	FX BUP (pu: bip)
172.1	FX CLATTER (kacha: plates clattering)	141.3	FX SIGH (haa: sighing)
172.1	FX CLANG (gate: chair rattling)	141.4	FX CLANG (gacha: chair rattling)
172.2	FX CRASH (buterin: plates crashing)	142.1	FX HUH (hu: sniffing)
172.2	FX AHH (aaaa: acclamation)	142.1	FX PHEW (ha: feeling relieved)
172.3	FX SHUT (paten: the door closing)	142.4	FX WHEEZE (ze: ze: wheezing)
172.4	FX GASP (ha: gasping)	142.5	FX WHEEZE (ze: wheezing)
173.1	FX KA-CHAK (kacha: the door opening)	142.6	FX PANT (ha: panting)
173.4	FX CHAK (cha: closing the door)	143.1	FX THUMP (doku: heart beating)
173.5	FX SHUT (paten: the door closing)	143.4	FX BLARE (ku: glare)
174.1	FX SLURP (tu: zu: zu: slurping)	143.5	FX PANIC (wata: wata: feeling dismay)
174.1	FX BLOW (haa: haa: blowing)	143.2	FX SHF (ku: moving a hand quickly)
174.2	FX MUNCH (gatsu: gatsu: munching)	147.5	FX RING RING (perunaru: a cell phone ringing)
174.3	FX SLURP (zu: zu: slurping)	148.1	FX BUP (pu: bip)
174.3	FX MUNCH (gatsu: gatsu: munching)	148.2	FX SQUEAL (kuu: squealing)
175.1	FX BURP (gatu: burping)	148.3	FX NAG NAG (gasi: gasi: nagging)
175.1	FX WHEEZE (ze: ze: wheezing)	148.6	FX SNIFF (ku: sniffing)
175.1	FX WHEEZE (ze: ze: wheezing)	148.6	FX HAH HAH HAH (haha: laughing)
175.1	FX PHEW (puu: sighing)	149.6	FX SNAP (gu: phone turned off)
175.2	FX SIGH (haa: sighing)	149.7	FX OOOT (ku: dead phone line)
175.3	FX BUMP (happu: bumping)	150.3	FX MMM (muu: groaning)
175.4	FX BUMP (oppu: bumping)	150.4	FX BAM (bata: the door opening)
175.5	FX BUMP (kette: bumping)	151.1	FX WHIRR (mii: whirling)
175.6	FX SIGH (hefu: sighing)	151.2	FX KABOOM BOOM (doe:don: blasts)
176.1	FX EWIP (gaku: getting up)	152.1	FX ROAR (gcoo: roaring)
176.3	FX HMPH (ku: sulking)	152.1	FX ROAR (gcoos: roaring)
177.2	FX SQUEAK (ku: ku: squeaking)	153.3	FX WHIRR (hyururu: whirling)
177.4	FX GRIRR (gerururu: growling)	153.4	FX KABOOM (doe: blast)
178.1	FX TWICH (ku: ku: ku: being frustrated)	153.5	FX BOOM (doe: blast)
178.1	FX TAP TAP (tan: tan: tapping)	153.6	FX BOOM KABOOM (doe:doe: blasts)

8.2: In the original Japanese, Shinsji pondered the situation as being *Kansaku Aao-igai*, which means “beyond the bounds (of) observation.” To this was added (as a subtitle in katakana) the English loan-word *okaruto*, “accult.”

12.1: Excel's remark about forgetting *kanyū* is not uncommon even among native users of Japanese; it used to be you were expected to know 1,845 of them before you entered high school, in 2010 that got upped to 2,136! In reality, just because you manage to remember there long enough to pass a test doesn't mean they're all going to stick around in your head. Come to think of it, the *Kan* that begins *Kanooku* is 8.2 is eighteen strokes—at that point you're in the top 5% as far as complicated gses among the standard characters.

12.2: In Excel's case, n “Revolutions,” of course, I suddenly had n glimpse of an American version of *Excel Saga* set in Seattle (I've come to the conclusion it's the best U.S. stand-in for Fukuoka, that is, a major city, oriented toward Asian business and exports, but far away from traditional U.S. power and cultural centers, just as Fukuoka is far away from the Kanto and Kansai regions of Japan), based around a small group of attractive young women who are fanatical followers of Ran Paul (consider that Ayn Rand once said her favorite TV show was *Charlie's Angels*; I'm not saying this to express my political opinions, but it's the simple hope that Ran Paul supporters will immediately descend on meesse upon the bookstores to read this and respond. I know this will involve each one purchasing n copy of vol. 24, because they are respectful of private property.

13.4: This joke (although this story originally ran in the October 2009 issue of *Young King Ours*) seems very relevant now after Fukushima, after which every nuclear plant in Japan was shut down.

15.4: In the original Japanese, she called Shinsuji megane, “glasses,” evidently being disinclined to remember his name.

17.2: Peter Weir's acclaimed 1986 film *The Truman Show*, starring Jim Carrey as n man who gradually becomes aware that his entire life has been a reality television show, has in the years since evidently influenced an actual delusory state where people believe likewise, described as “Truism Syndrome” in the *British Journal of Psychiatry*. The editor cannot help but feel this is a pretty egistical illness to suffer from. Doesn't anyone think they're Napoleon anymore? I mean, that's pretty egistical, too, but presumably you at least feel obliged to go out and do something constructive, like conquer Europe. Instead of just pandering for ratings.

19.4: Please see Deblittle in vol. 5, note for 173.4, although I'll bet a dedicated fan such as you not only reememorized the information, but also knows that, technically, it was “173-4,” before the great dash-dot switch of vol. 15, which has never been satisfactorily explained. Yes, by now Deblittle even has notes about the minutiae of Deblittle itself.

178.4	FX BUMP [gr. bump]
179.1	FX TWITCH TWITCH (maka maka, being irritated)
180.1	FX MUMBLE (butsu batus, mumbling)
180.2	FX THUMP (dokun, heart beating)
180.3	FX BAM (brian dots, thrashing about)
180.3	FX THUMP (dokun, heart beating)
180.4	FX CLUNCH [gingi, clunching teeth]
183.1	FX CLOMP (ka, u, footstep)
183.3	FX CHAK [pochi, the door opening]
183.4	FX CLOMP CLOMP (ka ka ka, footsteps)
184.1	FX HAGGARD (befe, being haggard)
184.3	FX HWUHH (asupen, feeling throwing up)
185.3	FX TA-GA [don, ta-do]
185.1	FX BUZZ (hoon hoon, buzzing)
185.5	FX URP [u, gulping]
185.7	FX CHOKE [jee, choking]
189.5	FX HUMPH [hon, humming]
190.2	FX HUM? [mori, question]
190.2	FX BUZZ (hoon hoon, cell phone vibrating)
190.3	FX STRETCH (nyaa, stretching)
190.3	FX BUZZ (hoon hoon, cell phone vibrating)
190.4	FX FLASH [pika, flash]
190.5	FX CRUSH [juechi, being crushed]

It seems unlikely that you would be reading this and not know about:

excelsagaforum.com

...but stranger things have happened, among them being the aforementioned “this,” i.e., *Excel Saga* vol. 24, which you are hopefully holding in your hands in November of 2012, rather than 2013 as I thought would be the case (and as was mentioned at the end of last volume's Deblittle). I never can quite get used to this freaky “message to the future” thing that publishing entails. Last volume, I dared the Mayans to do their worst, and then felt a bit guilty about it, being well aware this whole 2012 prophecy thing is pop folklore not supported by actual scholars of Mayan culture. And even if the Mayans did think the world was going to end on December 21, 2012, where exactly did we get into the habit of using the Mayan calendar as our day planner? It seems a little ludicrous to start paying attention to the Long Count only when it promises us a disaster reevie. For example, today (as I write this), July 8, 2012, was 12.19.19.9.14 to the Mayans. No doubt, according to the Mayan religion, we should all be doing something, or not doing something, as that date too, but does anyone know what, exactly? Ernest Borgnine died today; like the great Mayan king Itz'a Balam Ahae (Shield Jaguar Lord), he lived to be 95. Was he his reincarnation? Did you know Mischa is *Gundam 0000: War in the Pocket* was based on him? Ernest Borgnine, I mean, not Shield Jaguar Lord. Basing him on Shield Jaguar Lord would have just been too hercure.

ead updated RX-78 7th Gundam (also known simply as the RX-78-7). The translator notes the nickname "White Devil" was applied to the Gundam by Zeon forces due to its paint job, and not, as the editor had hoped (being a *Gundam* expert, despite that earlier remark about *War in the Pocket*), because it had been grafted by a big-headed scientist named Yacub. The Gundam's strength, by the way, is supposed to come in part from it being armored with lunar titanium alloy (see note for 177.2 below).

69.3: Miski uses the English word *maintenance*, just as Shiojiri does in §2.2 when he instructs Elgala to try and see if she can operate ACRSS's maintenance facility. Even though there are several native Japanese words that can be translated as "maintenance," this is another example where using the English one has become common among Japanese speakers.

71.4: Excel was in fact counting sheep (*hitogiri*) in the original, in case you were wondering, although Fukaoka's humid climate is not ideally suited for sheep raising; in Japan, you are most likely to find them on the northernmost island of Hokkaido.

95.5: Iwata chooses this moment to bring up the time in vol. 11 when Watanabe pawned all the appliances in the employee dormitory to help Hyatt repay her "coworker" debt (this being Elgala, who had had committed the drunken good deed of saving a restaurant from certain closure by leaving a fee million yen tip—the entire contents of the account Lord Il Palazzo had set up for them). All Watanabe saw, of course, was a fevered vision of "Miss Ayasugi" turning to prostitution unless he stepped in. This was also an early example of Or. Kabepu showing sympathy for Watanabe's unrequited love, an attitude he has maintained even though he has since become aware that "Miss Ayasugi" works for Il Palazzo (see p. 159 and note for 159.2, below).

98.3: Miski again uses an English term, *okarunōkū* "occultic" (see note for 8.2, above, although in her case she says it just by itself, without a corresponding Japanese term).

98.5: I apologize if I've asked this before, but what's up with that gesture of adjusting your glasses by pushing up on its bridge with your fingertips, usually to make a point? I've never seen anyone do it in real life, only in anime and manga.

104.1: Excel, of course, isverting Kemise's immortal lines from *Tennoji Jippo Gurren Lagann*.

195.5: Elgala, still unable to remember Shiojiri's name for even his title, is now addressing him as if she were Nabito and he was Goraemen, the eponymous robot cat who tested poorly in our focus groups.

25.1: In the original version, the term Elgala uses for "danger" is the English word "pinch" (*pinchi*)—"Seppai ga pinchi nar desu!"—suggesting that the English phrase "to be in a pinch" became adopted into Japanese at some point. This is also, of course, the same "pinch" as "Pinch-chea," Elgala's alter-ego in the recent four-panel strip at the end of the volume, where it uses another meaning the word has in English—that of a little, annoying pain.

30.2: The title of Mission 2 is a play on "The North Wind and the Sun," one of the ancient Greek *Aesop's Fables*, which Miwa cites at the end of the chapter. The fable says that one day the North Wind and the Sun decide to compete to see which is the stronger, by each attempting to make a passing stranger take off his cloak. The harder the North Wind blows, the tighter the stranger wraps his cloak around himself, but the Sun, by shining down its warmth, makes the stranger remove it. *Aesop's Fables* are relatively well known in Japan, having been introduced by Portuguese missionaries in the late 16th century. They survived the general suppression of outside culture during the long period of isolation under the Tokugawa era, having become accepted as a part of Japanese folklore.

37.5: It evidently takes close exposure to the presence of Il Palazzo to make Excel appear *mau*, as if it were a secret color only brought out by light beyond the aural spectrum.

45.3: The translator notes this is a reference to popular Japanese TV suspense dramas whose titles reflect the day of the week on which they air, such as *Kayo Sasuspensu Sekijo* (Tuesday Suspense Theater) or *Doyo Waide Sekijo* (Saturday Wide Theater). In these dramas, it is typical for a woman to be murdered at a hot spring.

46.3: In the original Japanese, the phrase Hyatt and Elgala say is *ikite iru to subarashii*, an old expression that sounds very much like the sort of thing you'd say in a pre-*Evangelion* pop song, like Hikaru Nishida would.

47.4: For some reason, Excel reminds me a little of Sir Integra Hellsing here.

50.1: The sign says *Shunkashub-an*, "Harmlage (of) Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter"—or, since this is a fancy restaurant, "The Four Seasons" might be the most appropriate rendering. The translator notes that Japanese politicians are traditionally thought to receive their bribes across the table in the private rooms of such establishments. The editor has noticed that Rikdo Sensei is very good at conveying corruption in the human face; he's the Thomas Nast of manga.

51.9: They are likely playing *Mobile Suit Gundam: Battlefield Record R.C. 0077* on the PS2, which had just come out at the time of this story, and which featured a redesigned

Itanion/Paranion /m Alemin' ion—Ice-T, "Home Invasion") isn't because it is the strongest metal, but because it has the highest strength-to-weight ratio of any metal—it is also highly resistant to corrosion. None of these facts, of course, will do poor Elgaia any good.

100.5: This is, of course, *Excel Saga* (and *Neising* and *Drifters*)'s great editor, Yoshiyuki Fudotani.

Well, as an offering to the future, let's close out for now on two pieces of fan art from the faithful Mick! Both drawings were made digitally using OpenCanvas," he writes. "One, by me, is of Koppensatsu II, sitting on top of Sumiyoshi, who's managing his, uh...collection, I guess? The other was a collaboration project using OpenCanvas's networking features, drawn together with my British friend Ryan Rouse, of a Kabapu imagining himself as a Frenchman, performing casual parkour jumps across skyscrapers to rid Napoleon on his rocket-boostered horse-plane, all while carrying his omelet with cheese with him. All also while his employees, apparently able to see his thoughts, share their respective reactions."

Speak of Napoleon, and he appears, it seems! And his rocket-boostered horse-plane, which doesn't surprise me a bit, as the *Speed Racer* episode that scared the crap out of me as a kid was the two-part "Race For Revenge," featuring a remote-controlled car named *Mélange*, supposedly after one of Napoleon's horses (the one in *Napoleon Crossing the Alps* by David—it was only years later I found out "*Mélange*" was a mistransliteration into English of *Marngo*, which was the actual name of the horse; trying to get words from a third language correct when you're translating them from Japanese into English can be particularly tricky). Anyway, the thing about *Mélange* was, it had the number 3 on its hood, but this was on a hatch that flipped over to reveal a blinking "X3" when it was time to kill you.

By which of course, I mean, see you again in vol. 25! Ah the hubris of manga!

—CMI

111.1: *Mige* means "mustache" (or "beard") in Japanese; it is evidently a version of the mascot Kabapu was modeling earlier, sized to dangle from your cell phone. There's a n song by Pretty, "Mustache in Your Face" that I really think could describe Watanabe's life working under the doctor.

132.3: See note for 45.3—only now the blood-filled toilet serves as the stand-in for the hot springs.

147.1: I'm a little disappointed that Matsuya didn't also get to be a little imaginary bird hectoring Watanabe, but I suppose she'd prefer not to become *too* involved in his delusions.

148.4: This is the same "number one" that Sakur calls Li at the end of *Cardcaptor Sakura*, which the editor also, er, edits. I was trying to think of exactly how to phrase this in a parental advisory. *This volume contains intense scenes of girls giving teddy bears to boys.*

150.2: In the original Japanese, Kabapu says *achio inu o utsu koto mo nakaru*, expressing the same idea as the English "kick a man when he's down," although it's more commonly alluded to just as *mitu ni achio inu utsu*, "hit a dog that fell in the water."

153.1: We haven't seen Kabapu's outdoor training facility in some time (it first appeared in vol. 2).

167.2: The translator notes that in the original Japanese, Iwata uses a made-up word, *kyozakusei*, instead of *kizokusei*, which indicates belonging. *Kyo* means "kage" or "ghost," and this implies that he is talking about Umi's dreams.

167.4 In the original Japanese, "SF" was subtitled *supai fushigi*, meaning very strange or mysterious.

168.6: Umi did mention that her friends from her doujieshi circle (as seen in vol. 18) were her seniors in school.

168.1 Umi seems to be the youngest among the main characters in *Excel Saga* (she was described as 18 when first introduced in vol. 12, meaning she must be at least 18 now, as Teriko/Excel was said to have been missing for a year). Matsuya, Iwata, Watanabe and Sumiyoshi went to work for the city as college graduates, so they must be around their mid-20s by now. It's kind of refreshing to have a manga where all of the characters have moved beyond junior high and high school. ^_^

177.2: When people speak of how "hard" a substance is (ah-hah-hah-hah...ah-hah-hah-hah) they are generally referring to its resistance to changing shape under force. In this regard, common glass is harder than titanium. The reason titanium became a byword for strength ("Hard as





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